



Many Voices Working for the Community

Advocate

ORREMSSAB to fill vacancies

The Department of Energy (DOE) is seeking volunteers to fill vacancies on the Oak Ridge Reservation's Environmental Management Site Specific Advisory Board (ORREMSSAB). The Board provides advice and recommendations to DOE on issues related to environmental management of the Oak Ridge Reservation.

Created in 1995, the Board is composed of 20 representatives from local communities potentially affected by cleanup decisions, as well as governing bodies and other interested groups. ORREMSSAB meets monthly to discuss and develop recommendations on high-level policy issues, including cleanup strategies, technology development, and long-term waste management issues. ORREMSSAB members also serve on committees that study specific issues in depth such as environmental restoration, waste management, land use and economic development, and environmental justice, health and safety.

All meetings of the Board and its committees are open to the public.

"ORREMSSAB is looking for enthusiastic people to join others in making a difference in the community," said Randy Gordon, Board chair. "ORREMSSAB is facing some tough but exciting challenges. In the months ahead, we will be making recommendations to DOE on some of the most fundamental and complex issues affecting environmental management on the reservation."

Gordon said recommendation topics will include DOE's Ten Year Plan for Environmental Management and cleanup levels of contaminated sites on the Oak Ridge Reservation. An ORREMSSAB member sits on the board of the Community Reuse Organization of East Tennessee (CROET) and is involved in future land use decisions.

Interested stakeholders can request ORREMSSAB membership applications from DOE by calling (423) 576-1590. In addition, membership applications are available on the ORREMSSAB home page (http://www.ornl.gov/doe_oro/em/ssab). The deadline for submitting applications is March 14, 1997. Final selection of candidates is scheduled for late April 1997.

Current officers of the ORREMSSAB are: Chair, Randy Gordon from Ten Mile, TN; Vice Chair, Bill Pardue from Oak Ridge; and Secretary, Bob Peelle from Oak Ridge.

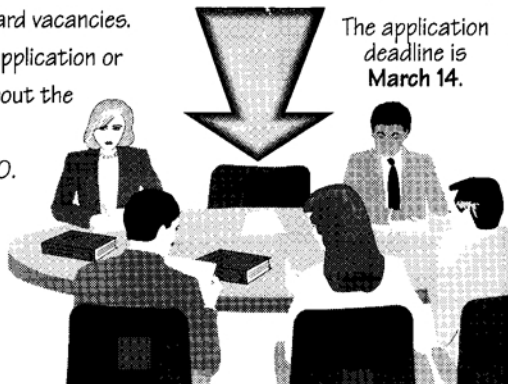
This Seat Could Be YOURS!

INTERESTED?

The Oak Ridge Reservation Environmental Management Site Specific Advisory Board (ORREMSSAB) is seeking volunteers to fill Board vacancies.

If you would like an application or more information about the ORREMSSAB, please call 576-1590.

The application deadline is March 14.



Seven new members will be selected to fill existing ORREMSSAB vacancies. In addition, DOE will create a pool of several stakeholders from which it can select future members when needed. New Board members will be selected to reflect the diversity of the Oak Ridge Reservation stakeholders.

"Although DOE performs administrative and some technical functions for ORREMSSAB, the Board is an independent body making independent recommendations to DOE," said Rod Nelson, Assistant Manager for Environmental Management. He said "DOE will use an independent panel to screen and recommend Board members to ensure fair representation and a balance of technical and non-technical membership."

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Savannah River Site

The Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB), formed and developed in 1993, held its first meeting in February of 1994 with a full complement of twenty-five Board members. The area surrounding the Savannah River Site extends from South Carolina to Georgia and includes the Savannah River which separates the two states. The SRS CAB meetings are held every other month and are rotated among communities in South Carolina and Georgia. The Savannah River Site Board conducts a public meeting on Monday evenings at 6 p.m. followed by issues-based subcommittee meetings. Full Board meetings begin at 8:30 a.m. on the following Tuesday.

There are four issue-based subcommittees within the SRS CAB: Environmental Remediation and Waste Management, Nuclear Materials Management, Risk Management and Future Use, and Public Outreach. Health effects and risk are major areas of focus in each subcommittee.

Recent issues the Board has dealt with include planning and co-sponsoring a Spent Nuclear Fuel Educational Forum in the Spring of 1997; reviewing budget prioritization for FY1999; continuing review of the Transuranic (TRU) Waste Program at SRS; and keeping informed about health effect studies which involve SRS.

The CAB was updated on current health effect studies at their November meeting. The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is doing a site worker health effects study. The study involves SRS workers and includes the incidence of multiple myeloma, effects on female workers, and a leukemia case control study which will include 6 DOE sites. The Consortium for Risk Evaluation through

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ORREMSSAB Members Speak at Oak Ridge Model Conference

The Twelfth Annual Oak Ridge Model Conference, a forum showcasing Oak Ridge technology and industry was held December 2-4, 1996. Presentations centered on the implementation of DOE's Environmental Management Ten Year Plan as it relates to the mission of Oak Ridge operations. Al Alm, DOE Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, gave the keynote address and later met with ORREMSSAB's Chair, Randy Gordon and Vice Chair, Bill Pardue.

Two ORREMSSAB members, Lorene Sigal representing ORREMSSAB, and Mary Bryan representing Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance (OREPA), presented papers on stakeholder issues in the Ten Year Plan. Both were lauded in our community for clearly expressing widely-held stakeholder views.

Ms. Sigal summarized the Board's analysis of and response to the Ten-Year Plan. She emphasized the need for more time for Board

input on DOE's planned projects and the need for more time for broader public participation. Ms. Sigal also discussed ORREMSSAB concern about developing free-release criteria and stakeholder involvement in developing these standards. Other major concerns Ms. Sigal addressed included the accelerated schedule of clean-up projects and the importation of waste

to be burned in the TSCA incinerator.

Ms. Bryan, speaking for OREPA, questioned the adequacy of funding for the Ten Year Plan. She also made a strong case for NEPA regulations being applied to the proposed on-site Waste



ORREMSSAB's Chair, Randy Gordon, and Vice Chair, Bill Pardue, meet with DOE's Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, Al Alm, at the Oak Ridge Model Conference.

Management Facility and to the in situ vitrification (ISV) project. State equity issues and stakeholder participation in planning decisions related to the TSCA incinerator were addressed by both Ms. Bryan and Ms. Sigal.

ORREMSSAB develops End-State working group

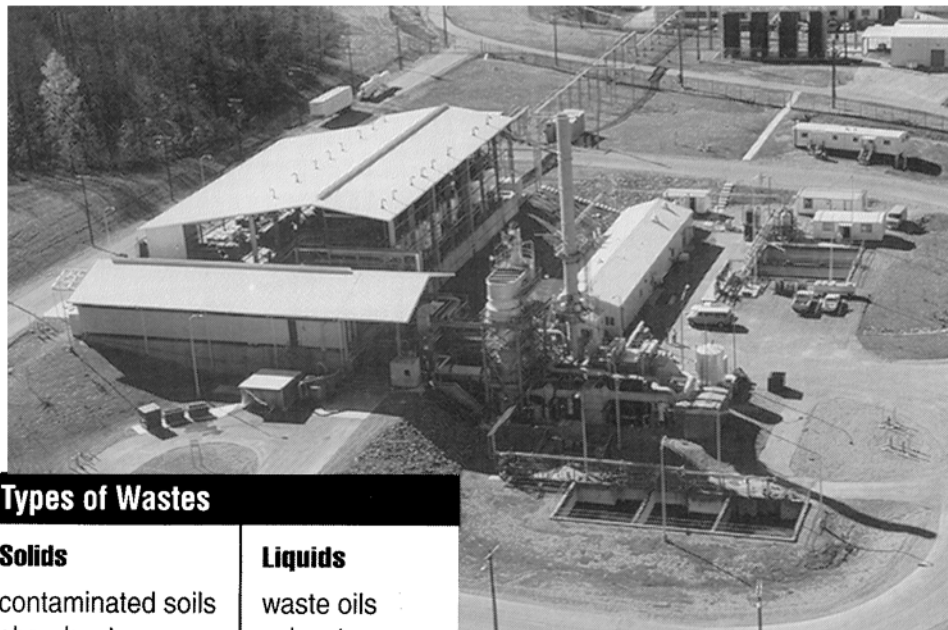
The Oak Ridge Reservation Environmental Management Site Specific Advisory Board (ORREMSSAB) has asked stakeholders to become involved in a "working group" that will study and discuss cleanup areas on the Oak Ridge Reservation. By participating, individuals and groups can help develop guidelines for conducting the cleanup effort and for determining the desired condition of the Reservation once that cleanup effort is completed. The Department of Energy (DOE) wants to hear from stakeholders about these guidelines.

Bob Sleeman, director of DOE's Environmental Restoration Program, explained that it is extremely important to know what the "end use"

of a contaminated site is expected to be before a cleanup decision can be made. For example, if a site is expected to be used for a purpose involving human contact with the soil, it will have to be cleaned up more extensively than if it is expected to be an industrial site. Sleeman asked that this working group first look at general guidelines for the entire Reservation and at the "end use" of Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), since cleanup decisions must be made for two ORNL sites in the spring of 1997.

At the first two working group meetings on February 20 and 22, the group discussed the meaning of the term "end use" and received an overview and tour of ORNL sites.

TSCA issues focus of ORREMSSAB



Types of Wastes

Solids

contaminated soils
absorbents
biological material

Liquids

waste oils
solvents
water solutions

Intense stakeholder interest in the TSCA incinerator and its future use ensures the involvement of ORREMSSAB. The Board represents stakeholders' concerns in its recommendations to DOE concerning the incinerator.

Completed in 1987, the incinerator began full operations in 1991. Testing, evaluations and modifications are ongoing to ensure that the facility maintains a high level of performance. Trial burns for permitting have been completed and full operations are permitted by state and federal regulatory agencies. The incinerator has provided waste disposal for several DOE facilities around the nation.

Wastes processed at the TSCA Incinerator are those contaminated with PCBs and hazardous organic materials. These also contain low levels of radioactive contaminated material. There are two categories of this waste, solids, and liquids. No commercial incinerators are available for processing this type of material.

During the incineration process, waste materials remain inside the kiln for 1 to 1-1/2 hours at temperatures of 1,500 to 1,800°F. Solids passing through the kiln fall into a water basin, where they are removed to a collection container. After analysis, these solids are disposed off-site. The combustion gases formed inside the kiln enter the secondary combustion chamber, where tempera-

tures between 1,800 and 2,200°F meet rigid TSCA regulations for achieving a 99.9999 percent destruction efficiency. The gases remain for more than 2 seconds in the second chamber as required by federal regulations.

According to DOE, the TSCA Incinerator design for off-gas treatment includes:

Quench Tower: This chamber cools the arriving gases from 2,200 to 188°F.

Venturi Scrubber: This device removes particulate material larger than 1 micron. The scrubber also removes hydrochloric acid formed during the combustion process.

Packed Bed Scrubber: The packed bed scrubber removes acidic gases from combustion gases.

Ionizing Wet Scrubber: This scrubber removes particulates smaller than 1 micron.

By the time the off-gases arrive at the 100-foot stack, 99.99 percent of the organics and 99.9999 percent of the PCBs have been removed.

Stakeholder concerns, expressed in public meetings and reported widely in the media, center on incinerator design, types of accepted wastes, and air quality monitoring. Two committees, Waste Management and Environmental Justice, Health and Safety plan to study these concerns in depth and help the full Board advise DOE adequately on this issue.

SRS (continued from page 2)

Stakeholder Participation (CRESP) is proposing to do follow up studies on leukemia rates on workers who have been exposed to tritium. CRESP will continue and expand an ORISE Leukemia Study to include females and minorities, extend the years of study, and re-assess the leukemia dose response. In addition, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is sponsoring a dose reconstruction study.

For more information on the SRS CAB see their home page (www.srs.gov) or call Dawn Haygood at 1-800-249-8155.

Each issue of Advocate will feature a DOE site that has an active SSAB.

ORREMSSAB Meeting Schedule

Board Meetings: First Wednesday of each month, 6-9 p.m. Locations may vary, but are advertised in local media and registered on the information phone line. Scheduled Board meetings include March 5, April 2, May 7 and June 4.

Committee Meetings: Generally scheduled during the second week of each month.

All Meetings: For exact times and locations, call the dedicated information phone line (423) 576-4750.

ad·vo·cate (ad'və-kat') *tr.v.*

To speak in favor of; recommend.—*n.* (ad'və-kit', -kāt'). **1.** A person who argues for a cause; supporter; defender. **2.** A person who pleads in another's behalf; an intercessor. [from Latin *advocatus*, "one summoned (to give evidence)."]

—The American Heritage Dictionary

TRACKING CHART

ORREMSSAB Tracking the Issues

- green = on going
- yellow = on hold
- red = completed
- ★ blue = DOE complete

Waste Management Committee

1. NTS Observation
2. Privatization
3. RH LL Solid waste management
4. Site Treatment Plan
5. Mixed Waste Management

For 1997, major issues to be examined by ORREMSSAB committees

are listed on a tracking chart which lists each committee and the issues it is studying. The chart serves three purposes:

- It informs stakeholders which committees are studying specific issues.
- It allows stakeholders, DOE and other ORREMSSAB members to visually review the progress made on each issue.
- It makes committees accountable for their progress.

Issue status is tracked on the chart as "on-going," "on hold," or "completed" and work that has resulted in an ORREMSSAB recommendation to DOE.

Committees have listed their expected projects for study in 1997.

Waste Management Committee

1. NTS observation
2. Privatization
3. RH LL Solid Waste Management
4. Site Treatment Plan
5. Mixed Waste Management (TSCA, TVS, TRU)

Environmental Restoration Committee

1. Interim Proposed Plan for Union Valley Upper East Fork Poplar Creek Characterization Area
2. Proposed Plan for the Clinch River/ Poplar Creek Operable Unit
3. Gunit tanks remediation
4. Proposed Plan for the ORNL Surface Impoundments Operable Unit

5. EM's Waste Management Facility
6. Watershed ROD Group
7. Bear Creek Valley Watershed ROD

Land Use/Economic Development Committee

1. Institutional Controls
2. Cleanup Standards
3. Draft K-25 Reindustrialization Environmental Assessment
4. Board Informational Meetings
5. End-Use Planning

Environmental Justice, Health and Safety Committee

1. TSCA Incinerator
2. Environmental Justice Issues
3. Worker Health Issues
4. Public Health Issues

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